

REMARKS

Foreign Priority:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority document has been received at the Patent Office.

Drawings:

The Examiner has not indicated that the drawings filed with the application have been accepted. Applicant hereby requests the Examiner approve and accept the drawings filed with the present application.

Information Disclosure Statement:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing and returning Form PTO/SB/08 A & B filed with the present application, thus indicating that all of the references listed thereon have been considered.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Further, Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that although claims 4-6 have been objected to, these claims would be allowable if written in independent form.

Accordingly, Applicant has drafted each of claims 4 to 6 in independent form, and submits that these claims are now allowable. Further, as these claims have been merely written in independent form, their original scope and spirit has been maintained.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-13 are all of the claims pending in the present application, and currently claims 1-3 and 7-13 stand rejected. Claims 14-15 have been added.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection - Claims 1-3 and 7-13:

Claims 1-3 and 7-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,290,615 to Ogg. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection.

As shown in Figures 1-6, Ogg discloses a golf ball having a number of ridges which project from the spherical surface of the ball. The ridges are used to create a number of hexagonal structures on the surface of the ball. However, in the present invention, the raised ridges integrally formed on the spherical surface extend to define a plurality of independent non-circular shapes delimiting predetermined areas. Further, in the present invention, the non-circular shape ridges are independent of each other. This is not disclosed in Ogg. Ogg discloses a golf ball having a plurality of lattice members disposed on the innersphere surface 22, as shown in Figs. 1-3.

Applicant submits that because of at least this distinction, Ogg fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention. Namely, in Ogg, each of the plurality of lattice members are connected to at least one other lattice member thereby to form a plurality of interconnected polygons. Since the non-circular shape ridges in the present invention are independent from each other, the feature of the independent ridges of the present invention is quite different from

that of tubular lattice pattern of Ogg. Thus, the tubular lattice patterns of Ogg are not independent of each other.

New Claim 14:

With regard to the newly added independent claim 14, Ogg fails to disclose that annular ridges and linear ridges connecting two annular ridges are integrally formed on the spherical surface. There is no disclosure, in Ogg, of at least this aspect of the claimed invention.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing discussion, Applicant submits that Ogg fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention. As such, Ogg fails to anticipate the claimed invention, as required under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of the claims 1-3 and 7-13.

Further, Applicant submits that new claims 14 and 15 are also allowable over Ogg for at least the reasons set forth above.

Conclusion:

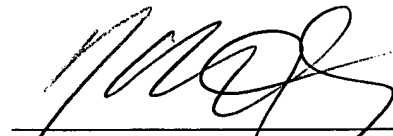
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Application Number 10/734,243

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Art Unit: 3711

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Terrance J. Wikberg
Registration No. 47,177

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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